



Illustration by Carolyn Crawford

SPIRANTHES DILUVIALIS
UTE LADIES' TRESSES

Ute Ladies'-tresses is a perennial with usually 1 stem, 15-50 cm high, arising from tuberously thickened roots. Leaves are long and narrow, mainly basal, and persist during flowering. The inflorescence consists of ascending, long, slender, white or ivory flowers clustered in a spike of 3-rank spirals at the top of the stem. The few to many flowers flare open at the mouth. The lateral sepals often spread abruptly from the base of the flower, and sepals are free or only slightly connate at the base. The lip petal is exposed in lateral view and is somewhat constricted at the median. Flowering in August-early September.

SPIRANTHES DILUVIALIS is intermediate between *S. ROMANZOFFIANA* and *S. MAGNICAMPORUM*; the latter is not known from Montana. *S. DILUVIALIS* is distinguished from *S. ROMANZOFFIANA* by its whitish, stout, flared flowers, by its lip petal that is exposed in lateral view, and by its sepals that are free or connate at the base for a short distance rather than fused to form a hood over the lip petal.